



Dave Heineman  
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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The Honorable Mike Johanns, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

I am writing to request a Secretarial Natural Disaster Designation for 13 additional Nebraska counties due to the ongoing drought that is causing producers to suffer pasture and crop losses.

Damage Assessment Reports (DARs) from Nebraska USDA County Emergency Boards indicate that the 13 Nebraska counties shown below suffered a 30 percent or greater county-wide loss in one or more crop enterprises as a result of high winds, excessive heat, a late freeze and the drought that began January 1, 2006, and is continuing. While alfalfa, wheat and other crop losses can be attributed to conditions this year, it should be noted that several of these counties have been affected by drought multiple times over the past six years. The cumulative effect can be seen particularly well on pasture lands. Producers are being forced to cull cattle and make plans for alternative forage sources for livestock, and those losses impact communities.

The crop and pasture losses are sufficient for your consideration for a Secretarial Natural Disaster Designation for the following Nebraska counties:

Boyd	Brown	Buffalo	Garfield	Howard	Kearney
Keya Paha	Loup	Rock	Sherman	Valley	Webster
Wheeler					

The Nebraska USDA State Emergency Board has reviewed the DARs and loss calculations for accuracy and reasonableness. It is the consensus of the agencies represented that these counties be recommended to you for requesting this assistance, so that producers suffering qualifying losses as a result of the high winds, heat, freeze and drought conditions are eligible for disaster assistance. Please give these requests your most serious and immediate consideration.

Sincerely,

*Dave Heineman*

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